



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Joe Tash (619) 548-1713

WHAT DO YOU TAKE WHEN IT'S TIME TO EVACUATE? *Preplanning is Key to Taking What's Important*

When the police officer's bullhorn announces it's time to leave your home and evacuate your neighborhood, what you take with you depends on how much planning you've done. Some things are important, some aren't.

The San Diego County Office of Emergency Services recommends you think before you pack. Certain items are obvious: eyeglasses, medications, birth certificates, medical records, insurance papers, your address book, financial records, computer disks and children's school records. Family photos, artwork and jewelry; pets, pet food, leash and carrier are also important.

Preparing a list that includes the location of those special items simplifies the process of packing. One thing that's easy to ignore is the gas in your vehicle. When disasters strike, there's no guarantee you'll be able to fill your tank soon. Keep your tank at least half full at all times.

Make sure you designate a relative or friend who lives out of town to contact in the event of an emergency and make sure others know who that contact is.

When it's time to go, use your list of important stuff, load your vehicle and put pets in at the last minute. If you have time, be sure to close blinds, leave exterior lights on and turn off automatic garden sprinklers.

A little preplanning eases the trauma of leaving your home behind.

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